

## BRIEFING

21st century communications from the City of Bloomington

Volume 9, Number 2

April 2001

Park improvements - page 8

## In this issue...

**Word from the Mayor**

Bloomington Public Health strengthens our community by providing a wide range of services that keep us healthy. *Page 2.*

**In the clear**

Does your sewer keep backing up? Maybe it's time to have the pipes leading to your home cleaned or repaired. *Page 3.*

**Leave falls behind**

Falls are the number one cause of hospitalization among older adults. To learn how to reduce your risk, attend the **Fall Prevention Clinic on Thursday, April 19**, at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St. For information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

**Get ready for summer**

The snow is melting. Memories of winter are fading. It's time to start thinking about the many activities Bloomington Parks and Recreation has planned for you or your child. *Pages 4 and 5.*

**May we have this dance?**

The Bloomington Senior Program will sponsor a **spring dance Wednesday, April 25**, from 7 to 9:30 p.m., at the Bloomington Armory, 3300 West 98th Street. Entertainment will include the Zurah Shriners' Jolly Nobles Band. Door prizes and refreshments will also be available. Cost is a \$3 donation at the door. For transportation or more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

**Earth Day 2001**

Celebrate. Educate. Participate. Find out **the Curbside Cleanup dates** and what you can do to improve our environment. *Pages 6 and 7.*

**Future parks projects**

Improvements to the Regional Park System over the next few years are presented. *Page 8.*

**TALK TO YOUR KIDS**

The Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities asks that you keep this in mind during graduation parties and other events - parents are role models for their kids. Most young people will use alcohol like their parents use alcohol. Talk to your kids about rules, responsibilities and the consequences of alcohol and substance use.



## "City Matters" emerges

**R**adar is picking up many topics of community interest for Mayor Gene Winstead's new monthly cable TV program "City Matters". Produced by the Communications Division, the show is hosted by Mayor Winstead. City staff join the Mayor to take an in-depth look at issues. "City Matters" can be viewed on The Bloomington Channel 14 (TBC14): Sunday - 8 p.m.; Monday - 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Tuesday - 7:30 p.m.; Wednesday - 7:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Shows are also videostreamed from our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us). ♦



## Facilities Update

## Public Works equipment finds a roof



**City vehicles and equipment will no longer be left out in the cold.**

**C**hange is underway at the Public Works site at James Avenue. The City Council has reviewed and approved the concept plans for building and site expansion.

**Authorizing and accepting bids**

After reviewing the final building plans, specifications and cost estimates at a February meeting, Councilmembers authorized bids to be taken. The Council will consider accepting the bids at a meeting in April. Assuming bid acceptance, construction will begin in April and continue into the winter.

**Relocation of operations**

During construction, the James Avenue operations, with the exception of the Motor Vehicle Licensing Division,

will temporarily move to a building acquired on the southeast corner of James Avenue and 98th Street. It is anticipated that most Utilities staff will also be temporarily relocated to this building.

The Motor Vehicle Licensing is expected to move to 9930 Logan Avenue South, where they will operate out of what is today the Utilities Division offices and lunchroom.

**Expansion/storage needed**

More than \$16 million are invested in Public Works equipment, but only one-third of it is housed indoors because of lack of storage space. Harsh weather takes its toll

and reduces the life of these vehicles. Other comparable metro area communities house more than 90 percent of their equipment indoors.

**Task force recommendation**

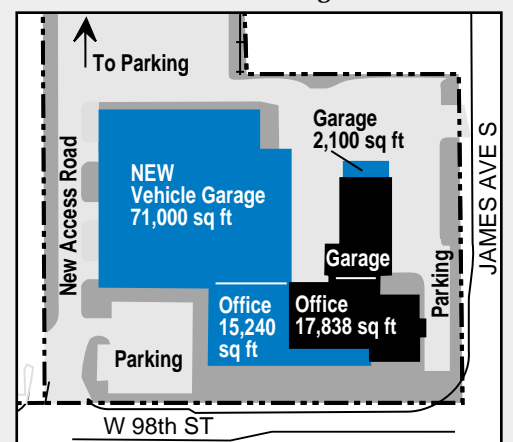
A task force, appointed by the City Council, studied the need for new Police/City Hall offices and facilities for Public Works storage. The task force looked at alternatives for building more storage space and recommended:

- ♦ Continuing use of the old garages built in 1953.
- ♦ Building a garage and expanding the offices at James Avenue. ♦

## Public Works construction

Approximately 71,000 square feet of vehicle equipment storage will be built. A 2,100 square foot repair garage addition will be constructed, along with 15,240 square feet of new offices. Existing offices will also be remodeled.

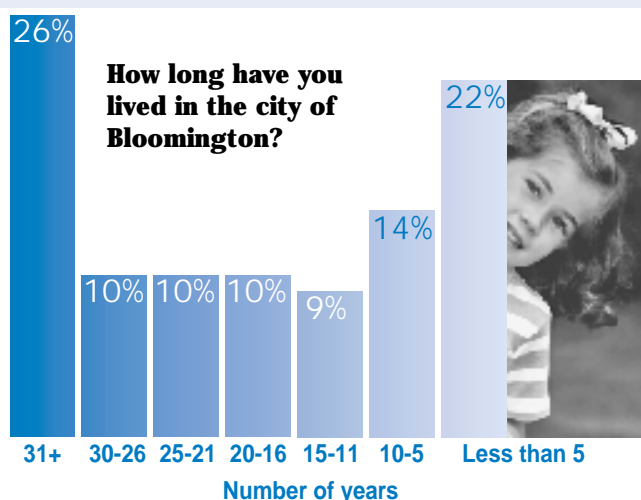
The project is expected to be completed by spring 2002.



## Home sweet home

**B**loomington residents like it here - so much so they tend to stick around. According to a survey of residents conducted in November 2000, 46 percent of respondents claim residency in Bloomington for more than 20 years. ♦

Source: City of Bloomington Community Survey, 11/00



**City of Bloomington**  
2215 West Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

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# Services that strengthen our community

Mayor Gene Winstead

## Bloomington Public Health helps residents live healthier lives

This series highlights some of the many City services that are performed with quiet efficiency in the background of our busy lives. Over the course of this year, we will look in-depth at these services that strengthen our community.



VACCINATING CHILDREN

When asked what they value most in life, many people would say good health.

What does it take to achieve good health? Start with a community that includes:

- ◆ Strong, resilient families.
- ◆ A safe food and drinking water supply.
- ◆ Proper treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes.
- ◆ Prevention of air and water pollution.
- ◆ A diverse, vibrant economy.
- ◆ Access to affordable, quality health and dental care.
- ◆ Safe, affordable housing.

### Adding quality to our lives

The role the City plays in providing services enhances the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Of these

services, none may be so important as those provided by Bloomington Public Health whose mission is to protect and care for the health of our community.

Over the years, public health services have added quality and longevity to our lives. The Bloomington Public Health Division delivers service to those who need it most and forms partnerships with community groups and agencies that help strengthen our community. They also work closely with other City departments and divisions, including Police, Public Works and Environmental Health Services.

### An ounce of prevention

The mission of Bloomington Public Health is achieved through health promotion and disease prevention efforts. Their focus is on the health concerns of the community as a whole and promoting healthy practices and behaviors. Some preventative measures include:

- ◆ *Vaccinating children* starting at birth to eradicate life-threatening diseases such as measles and polio.

- ◆ *Preventing underage alcohol use* by educating parents on the risks associated with teenage events.

- ◆ *Recognizing smoke-free restaurants* that support a healthy eating environment.

- ◆ *Providing home visits* to pregnant women to ensure a healthy start for babies and their parents.



**"I am encouraged to see more people becoming involved with issues that affect the health of Bloomington, knowing that it will benefit their well-being and that of their family. We need everyone working together to make sure our community is healthy and vibrant."**

Karen Zeleznak, Administrator,  
Bloomington Public Health



RECOGNIZING SMOKE-FREE RESTAURANTS

### Community partnerships

Bloomington Public Health keeps in touch with the issues that affect our families and community by partnering with these and other groups:

**Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities** promotes health, reduces risks and builds assets in our youth and communities. The focus is on youth issues such as alcohol and tobacco use prevention.

**FamiLink** helps individuals and families connect to a network of partners including schools, businesses, faith organizations, civic groups, City and human service providers. Services include parent support, counseling, housing, food and daycare.

**Bloomington United for Youth** focuses on asset-building and opportunities for community involvement that will nurture competent, caring, responsible youth in our city.

### A community that stays healthy

Today we live longer and enjoy better health thanks to the efforts of public health services. Empowering people to lead healthy lives and building an environment free of preventable problems are goals they strive to accomplish. As the Bloomington



PROVIDING HOME VISITS

Public Health Division continues to meet the needs of our community through the services they provide, we are assured a healthy outlook for many years to come.

*In the next issue, we will take a look at Environmental Health Services and how these dedicated specialists also protect the health of our community.* ◆

## Inspection program helps reduce violations

Responding to increased resident complaints about nuisance violations, the City Council approved citywide inspections in 1997. Environmental Health Services has averaged two inspections per household each year since then. Every year the number of violations decreases. However, a small number of repeat violations continues.

### New program

The City has implemented a new program to deal with repeat violations. Property owners will now receive a fine for violations not corrected in a timely manner. The program allows for mediation so that corrective solutions can be developed.

### Improper vehicle storage

Of the 591 complaints received in 2000, 55 percent were related to motor vehicles. Outside and improper storage of vehicles:

- ◆ Promotes blight and deterioration in the community.
- ◆ Reduces the value of real estate property.
- ◆ Creates fire and safety hazards.

Improper storage violates the City zoning regulations, particularly when vehicles are stored in the setback areas of residential property. ◆

### Frequently asked questions on vehicle storage

#### Where can vehicles be parked on my property?

Vehicles can be parked in a garage or on an approved driveway. RVs, no longer than 40 feet, have to park a minimum of five feet from the property line and should be screened from adjacent and abutting properties. RVs cannot extend more than eight feet from the front of the dwelling.

#### How many vehicles can I store on my property?

Vehicles parked or stored at a home are limited to the number of licensed drivers plus one additional vehicle per household.

#### What vehicles are prohibited from residential storage?

Some "non-residential" vehicles cannot be stored in residential areas. They include: dump trucks, cargo trucks, tow trucks, semi-tractor trailers, tank trucks, boom trucks, fire trucks, farm implements and hearses. Vehicles longer than 22 feet or higher than 7.5 feet may only be parked in residential areas when rendering a service or in the operator's driveway between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

For information, call Environmental Health Services at

### City Council

<b>Mayor</b>	Gene Winstead	952-888-1258(h) mayor@ci.bloomington.mn.us
<b>Councilmembers</b> council@ci.bloomington.mn.us		
At Large	David Abrams	952-885-0506(h)
At Large	Mike Fossum	952-885-9056(h) 612-673-3645(w)
District II	Heather Harden	952-835-5919(h)
District III	Alisa Ornat	952-944-1156(h)
District I	Steve Peterson	952-884-3262(h)
District IV	Vern Wilcox	952-854-1425(h)
<b>City Manager</b>	Mark Bernhardtson	952-563-8780 citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

## We are accessible!

### Stop by or write:

City of Bloomington  
2215 W. Old Shakopee Road  
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

### Phone:

952-563-8700

### TTY:

952-563-8740

### FAX:

952-563-8715

### E-mail:

dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us

### Web site:

www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

### More options:

For Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3096; phone: 952-

# Clearing up sewer blockages

Over time, homeowners may experience problems with their sewer service line - the pipe that connects the property owner's sewer line to the City's mainline sewer. Collapsed pipe or tree roots growing in or around service lines can block sewage flow and may require frequent cleaning and, in some cases, major repair work.

## Common cause of blockage

A common point of root intrusion occurs at the service connection. This is where the home sewer line connects to the sanitary sewer service

stub located near the property line. *See below.*

## Property owner's responsibility

If your sewer backs up more than once a year, consider cleaning or repairing the line. Under Bloomington's City Code owners are responsible for maintaining and cleaning the sewer connection from the house to the sewer main.

## What to do if you have a backup

Report any sewer backups to the City's Utilities Division, who will check the City's mainline condition in the street at no cost to you. If

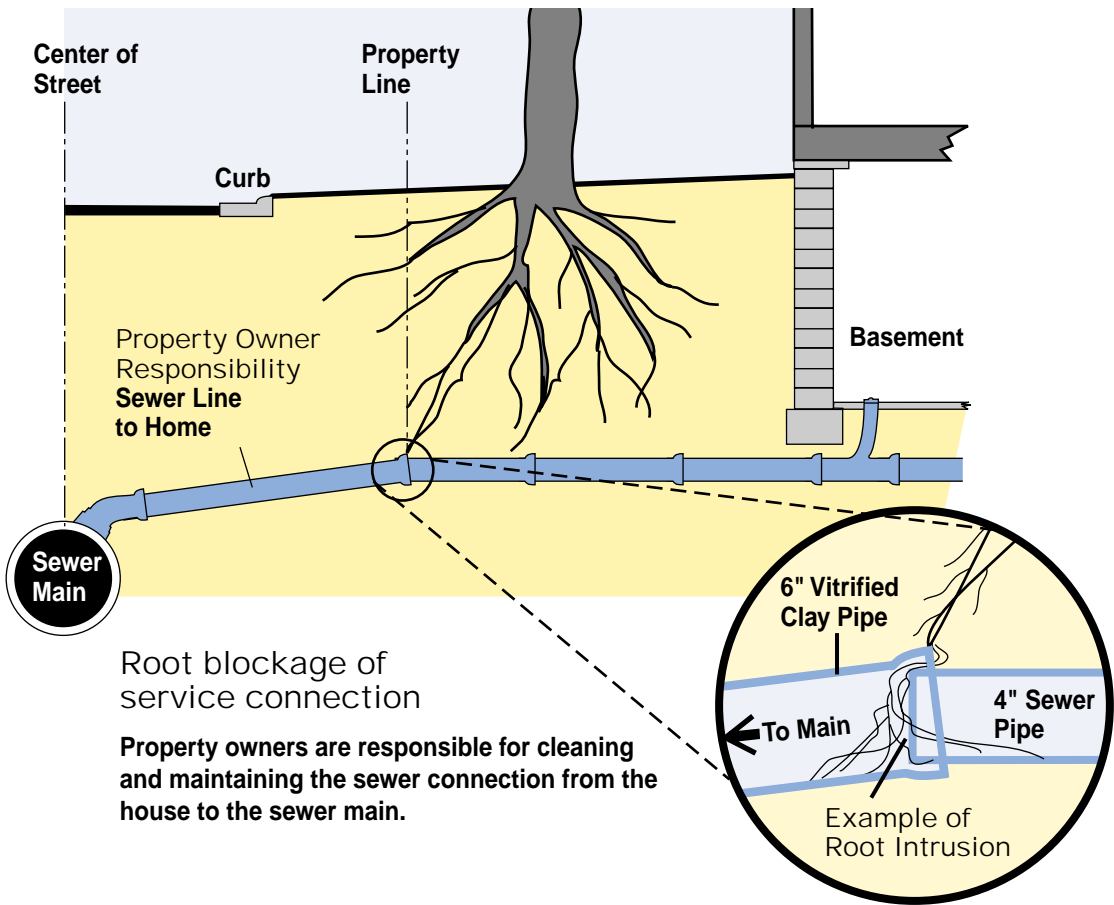
the blockage is not in the City's mainline, you will need to contact a sewer-cleaning contractor.

## When hiring a contractor

Make sure the contractor understands the City Code and cleans your service all the way to the mainline, not just to the property line.

For more information, call Sanitary Sewer Supervisor Randy Poore, 952-563-4912 or e-mail [rpoore@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:rpoore@ci.bloomington.mn.us). To report a sewer backup, call the City's Utilities Division at 952-563-4910. ♦

How a sewer service line connects to the City's sewer main



# City joins nation in recognizing volunteers

To celebrate National Volunteer Week, the Mayor's Annual Volunteer Recognition Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 28. The Mayor, Councilmembers and City staff will thank volunteers who work with Council Commissions, Boards and Authorities, Human Resources, Human

Services, Park Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, Public Health and the Police Department. The breakfast is a key event in the celebration of the United Nations' International Year of the Volunteer. For more information, call Kerry Stone, Human Services Coordinator, at 952-563-8737. ♦

# Bloomington Yesterday

## Tuberculosis in 1951

The Bloomington Town Hall did double-duty in the 1950s, serving as the local headquarters for tuberculosis screening. Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease that usually attacks the lungs. Fifty years ago, chest X-rays were used to monitor the disease. Bloomington Town Hall served as a TB screening site for the Hennepin County Tuberculosis Association. The woman pictured is identified as Esther Hanson, a school and community nurse in Bloomington. Unfortunately, TB is far from being a disease of the past - today it causes more deaths worldwide than any other infectious disease. ♦



Bloomington Historical Society

# Call before you dig!

State law requires communication between people who dig and underground utility companies. If you are planning construction or remodeling that involves digging, you or your contractor must call Gopher State One-Call, the statewide notifications center.

## Determining line location

Gopher State One-Call will transmit information to operators of pipelines, electrical and telephone lines and other utilities regarding property location and the type of work being done. Each utility will determine if their lines pose a conflict.

## Bloomington utilities

The Utilities Division does not locate private utilities, but will locate the City's water, sanitary sewer and storm sewer lines. **Crews will mark the location of these lines from the street connection to your property line or right-of-way.** Location marks are estimates based on the best available information, and the exact position may vary up to 24 inches.

## For more information

Notify Gopher State One-Call at 651-454-0002 at least 48 hours prior to digging. For questions about your water or sewer lines, call Utilities Administration at 952-563-8777. ♦

## Color-coding 101

If marking existing lines is required, a field locator will use the following color-coded paint, flags or stakes to indicate the presence of lines below ground:

- ♦ Red - Electrical power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables.
- ♦ Yellow - Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials.
- ♦ Orange - Communications, cable TV, alarm or signal lines, cable or conduit.
- ♦ Blue - City drinking water.
- ♦ Purple - Reclaimed water, irrigation or slurry lines.
- ♦ Green - Sewer and drain lines.
- ♦ Fluorescent Pink - Temporary survey markings.
- ♦ White - Proposed excavation.

# Light rail transit (LRT) breaks ground



It's the last stop of the planning stage for light rail transit which is now moving toward construction. A full funding agreement between the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council and the federal government, which is covering 55 percent of the overall expenses, was approved in January. With this agreement finalized, construction can now begin.

A groundbreaking celebration took place in January at the site of the future maintenance facility at I-94 and Cedar Avenue in Minneapolis. A number of local and state leaders, including the Governor, attended the event.

A design-build contract has been officially awarded to construct the project and contracts for the railroad cars and the tunnel under the airport are also in place.

The LRT line will link downtown Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and Bloomington's Airport South District, including the Mall of America. While work has begun in Minneapolis, construction in Bloomington will tentatively begin in 2002 or 2003. It is anticipated that the three stations in Bloomington will be completed and ready for use by late 2004.

For more information, call Public Works Director Charles Honchell at 952-563-8731 or visit the Metropolitan Council Web site at [www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org). ♦

# PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

In a recent survey, 94 percent of our residents said they were "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with Bloomington's parks and open spaces.



A fun-filled season of activities for youth

## summer spectrum 2001

Spanning eight weeks, Summer Spectrum classes will focus on youth who are entering grades 1 through 9. Classes and camps will be held at various sites with bus transportation from the city's neighborhoods.

To make planning easier, a catalog is being mailed to the parents of school age children in Bloomington. The catalog contains not only Summer Spectrum Programs but other activities that span the whole summer - from the outdoor programs of the Parks and Recreation Division (including Outdoor Aquatics) to Indoor Aquatics from Community Education and the day camps at the Bloomington Art Center. Plus, there are correspondence courses, childcare options, and the Galaxy Youth Center for older youth.

Catalogs are being mailed in early April. For more information, or if you have not received a catalog by April 17, please call Parks and Recreation. As an additional resource, the catalog will be available on our Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).

Summer Spectrum is a collaborative program of Bloomington Public Schools' Community Education, the City of Bloomington's Parks and Recreation Division and the Bloomington Art Center. ♦



### Bush Lake Beach opens

**June 9 - August 26**  
**12 noon - 8 p.m.**

What do you get when you combine a beach full of sand and a lake full of water? Tons of fun at Bush Lake Beach! Remember, a daily or annual Hennepin Parks pass is required for vehicle entrance to Bush Lake and can be purchased from Parks and Recreation for \$5 per day or \$27 per year.



### Pool closed for season

**Scheduled to reopen June 2002**

Valley View Pool will be closed for renovation during the 2001 season. Bloomington residents with season passes can use the pool in Richfield or St. Louis Park without paying out-of-city fees.

Park it right here...

# Celebrate

## Summer in Bloomington

You don't have to travel far to enjoy the warm weather this summer. Bloomington has some of the best parks and lakes around. To get things moving, sign up for classes, lessons and camps sponsored by Parks and Recreation, the Bloomington Art Center and Community Education. We encourage everyone to participate in our programs. Assistance will be provided to those with disabilities or special needs.

### Dates to remember

#### Saturday, April 21

**Super Sign-up Saturday** - Register for summer programs at Oak Grove Intermediate, 1300 W. 106th St., 9 - 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday, April 25

**Registration begins at Parks and Rec** in City Hall.

#### Saturday, June 9

**Bush Lake Beach opens.**

#### Tuesday, June 12

**Summer Playground Program, youth tennis lessons and Arts in the Parks** begin.

#### Monday, June 18

**Tiny Tots Try Mini-Camp** (formerly Discovery program) begins.

## Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange Cooperative



Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. In addition to specialized programs, we also offer inclusion services to people with disabilities as they participate in City and Community Education sponsored programs.

**Note: Residents are persons from Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield.**

### Youth Softball

This program teaches the basic rules and good sportsmanship in a non-threatening environment. Siblings and parents are invited to volunteer.

**Who:** Boys and girls with disabilities, ages 10 - 18.

**When:** Mondays, June 4 - July 23, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Penn/Washburn Fields, 84th Street at Penn Avenue.

**Cost:** \$38.50 resident, \$43.50 non-resident.  
Includes team shirt.

**Register:** Call Parks and Recreation.

### Adult Drop-in Center

This program is for adults who would benefit from a supportive, supervised environment that allows them to work on social skills while pursuing leisure interests.

**Who:** Adults, 18 and older.

**When:** Wednesday evenings: April 18, May 2 and 16, June 20, July 18, August 15.

**Where:** Galaxy Youth Center, 8900 Portland Avenue.

**Cost:** \$3 per night.

### Adult Co-Recreational Softball League

#### LEAGUE A

**Who:** Adults, 19 and older. Players need softball experience, understanding of the scoring process and a desire to play in a competitive league.

**When:** Tuesdays, June 5 - July 31, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue S.

**Cost:** \$40 resident, \$50 non-resident.  
Includes team shirt.

**Register:** Call Parks and Recreation.

#### LEAGUE B

**Who:** Adults, 19 and older. Players need to be able to follow simple directions and maintain a high interest in softball.

**Register:** Call Kristin, Richfield Adaptive Recreation, at 612-861-9361.

### Summertime Fun

Looking for summer fun and friendships? Try a social and recreational group! These programs provide people with disabilities the opportunity to socialize with friends, learn leisure skills and have fun. Groups typically meet twice a month.

#### Happenings

For young adults, 18 - 29 years old, who benefit from minimal supervision and structure.

#### Saturday Night Out

For teens and young adults, 13 - 22 years old, who enjoy outings and in-house activities with moderate supervision and structure. ♦

New  
for 2001!

Gymnastics and Cheerleading Classes

To register, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

Parks and Recreation is teaming up with American Elite Gymnastics to provide new programs for boys and girls including gymnastics, rhythmic gymnastics and cheerleading.

**Where:** American Elite Gymnastics, 6150 W. 110th Street



### Gymnastics

Provide your tot with an introduction to an early gymnastics program. Classes will focus on cooperative learning, social interaction and exploration of movement. Children will improve coordination, balance, and flexibility and increase overall body strength. Gymnastics apparatus includes balance beam, uneven parallel bars, rings, pummel horse, parallel bars, vault, floor exercise and trampoline.

**When:** February 26 - April 7 (6 weeks).

**Cost:** \$35.

**Limit:** Eight per class; minimum of four to hold class.

- Tiny Tots**  
Ages 18 months - 3 years.

This class exposes the young child to the fundamentals of gymnastics apparatus. Activities include warm-up exercises, beginning tumbling, introduction to the balance beam, vault, uneven parallel bars and trampoline. An adult must accompany all children.

**Rollers**  
Ages 3 - 4. Child must be 3 by Feb. 1.

Activities include warm-up exercises, forward rolls and log rolls. Children are introduced to cartwheels, beginning skills on uneven bars, balance beam and vaulting.
- Wheelers**  
Ages 5-7.

Classes focus on mastering new skills on all gymnastics apparatus. Activities include warm-up exercises and tumbling skills including cartwheels. Beginning mounts and dismounts, uneven bars, balance beam and vaulting are taught. Children are encouraged to practice skills at home to help increase strength and flexibility.

**Twisters**  
Ages 6 and up.

Children should have previous gymnastics experience. This class will focus on mastering skills on all phases of gymnastics apparatus. Activities include warm-up exercises, splits, bridges and tumbling. Children combine the skills learned to develop beginning routines. Students are encouraged to practice at home to help increase flexi-

	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
9 - 9:40 a.m.	Tiny Tots	Rollers	Tiny Tots	Rollers	-	Tiny Tots
9:45 - 10:25 a.m.	Wheelers	Tiny Tots	Wheelers	Tiny Tots	-	Twisters
10:30 - 11:10 a.m.	Tiny Tots	Twisters	Rollers	Wheelers	-	Wheelers
11:15 - 11:55 a.m.	Rollers	-	Tiny Tots	-	-	Twisters
12 - 12:40 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	Rollers
12:45 - 1:25 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	Wheelers
1 - 1:40 p.m.	-	-	Tiny Tots	Twisters	Tiny Tots	Tiny Tots
1:30 - 2:10 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	Twisters
1:45 - 2:15 p.m.	-	-	-	-	Rollers	Rollers
2:15 - 2:55 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	Tiny Tots
2:30 - 3:10 p.m.	-	-	-	-	Wheelers	-
3:15 - 3:55 p.m.	-	-	Twisters	-	Twisters	-
6 - 6:40 p.m.	Tiny Tots	Wheelers	-	Rollers	-	-
6:45 - 7:25 p.m.	Twisters	Rollers	-	Wheelers	-	-



### Rhythmic Gymnastics/Cheerleading

**When:** March 5 - 31 (4 weeks).

**Cost:** \$35.

**Limit:** Eight per class; minimum of four to hold class.

**Rhythmic Gymnastics**

Learn the techniques of this exciting Olympic sport that combines strength, flexibility, dance and gymnastics. Set to music, routines incorporate ribbons, balls, hoops and clubs into the exercise.

**Rhythmic I:** Ages 5 - 8.

**Rhythmic II:** Ages 9 and up.

**Cheerleading**

From toe touching to tumbling and motions to mounts, CHEER classes cover the basics of cheerleading at every level and all age groups. Whether beginning, intermediate or advanced, CHEER classes offer a well-balanced curriculum of techniques for cheerleaders.

**Cheer I:** Ages 5-10.

**Cheer II:** Ages 11 and up.

**Cheer III:** Ages 11 and up.

Cheer and tumbling experience required.

	M	TU	W	TH	F	SA
10 - 10:45 a.m.	-	Rhythmic I	-	-	-	-
11 a.m. - 12 noon	-	-	-	-	-	Cheer I
11 - 11:45 a.m.	-	Rhythmic I	-	-	-	-
12 noon - 1 p.m.	-	-	-	-	-	Cheer II
5 - 6 p.m.	Cheer I	-	Cheer I	-	Rhythmic II	-
6 - 7 p.m.	Cheer II	Cheer II	-	Cheer I	Rhythmic II	-
7 - 8 p.m.	Cheer II	Cheer III	-	Cheer II	Rhythmic II	-

## Hennepin Parks

### Hyland Lake Park Reserve

Hyland Lake Visitor Center . . . . . 952-941-4362  
Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area . . . . . 952-835-4250  
Cross-Country Ski Trail Hotline . . . . . 763-559-6778

- The snow will go and spring will bring outdoor recreation at Hyland Lake Park Reserve. This 1,000-acre recreational area offers activities for visitors of all ages and abilities. Equipment rental and lessons are available at reasonable rates.
- Spring highlights:**
- ◆ HSSA Chalet Drive Golf Practice Center with 40 driving stations and restaurant.
  - ◆ Trails - 5.6-mile paved hiking and biking, 7.3 miles for turf hiking and 2.5 miles for pet walking.
  - ◆ Picnicking, fishing and boating areas.
  - ◆ Visitor center with concessions and rental equipment.
  - ◆ Richardson Nature Center with programs, displays and rental equipment.

### Richardson Nature Center

Richardson Nature Center . . . . . 952-941-7993

We're remodeling, but will be offering a limited number of programs at Hyland Visitor Center. For more information or to register, call Richardson Nature Center. Reservations are usually made one week in advance.

**Spring Bird ID Class: Waterfowl**  
Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m.  
Learn from area birding experts how to identify waterfowl including ducks, geese and swans. Bring notepad, pencil and bird book. Ages 12 and up. Patrons \$3; regular rate \$6.

**Spring Bird ID Class: Blackbirds and Sparrows**  
Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.  
Some of the hardest species to identify are blackbirds and sparrows. Learn more about these birds through the use of slides, taped calls and birding experts. Ages 12 and up.

White Sale

**March 1 through closing day.**

Enjoy two-for-one lift tickets at Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area.

## Protect our natural resources

**H**ow you buy, use and dispose of products has a significant impact on the environment. Make an effort to recycle products you use everyday, especially those that may contain toxic materials. Reduce your energy consumption and not only protect the environment, but save money. Enhance water quality with proper lawn and garden care to keep pollutants from reaching our lakes and streams. The simple steps we take will protect the earth's natural resources and our health.

### Recycling computers

**S**ince 1999, more than 20 million computers have become obsolete, creating a challenge for safe disposal. Though not a risk when used by consumers, these products become health and environmental hazards when they are stored, landfilled or incinerated because they contain toxins.

#### Risks

- ◆ Significant amounts of **lead** can be found in monitors.
- ◆ Hazardous metals such as **lead, chromium, cadmium and mercury** are present in printed circuit boards of PCs.
- ◆ Batteries, switches and relays in electronic products contain **mercury**.

◆ **PCB**, an environmental pollutant and carcinogen, may be found in televisions and computers made before the early 1980s.

#### Where to recycle

Do not throw these products in the trash. Recycle them instead. The following facilities salvage reusable parts from unwanted PCs and electronics.

- ◆ South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Facility, 1400 W. 96th St., Bloomington, 612-348-6500. *There is no drop-off charge for residents.*
- ◆ Asset Recovery Corporation, St. Paul, 651-602-0789.
- ◆ Electronic Recovery, Minneapolis, 612-338-2466. *Call*

*for residential/commercial acceptance and fees.*

- ◆ Materials Processing Corporation, Eagan, 651-681-8099.
- ◆ Superior Special Services, Bloomington, 952-948-0626.
- ◆ Waste Management-Asset Recovery Group, Inver Grove Heights, 651-



### Facts surrounding watersheds

**Water bodies have watersheds: the surrounding land that drains into a lake, stream or river. This includes natural and artificial drainage systems, such as ditches and storm sewers. If we pollute a watershed, we directly affect the water quality in that lake, stream or river.**

#### Storm water runoff

In a natural watershed, much of the rain soaks into the soil of grassy or vegetated areas. However, in an urban watershed, rain runs off hard surfaces such as streets, driveways and rooftops.

As rainwater flows from street to storm sewer, it picks up pollutants including oil, antifreeze, leaves, grass clippings, pet wastes and chemicals from lawns and gardens. Storm sewers provide direct routes for pollutants to lakes and streams.

#### Lawn care

Phosphorus, one of the most troublesome pollutants, is in leaves, lawn clippings, animal wastes and most lawn fertilizers. When phosphorus reaches a lake or stream it increases algae growth which then blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. As algae decays, it also takes oxygen from fish.

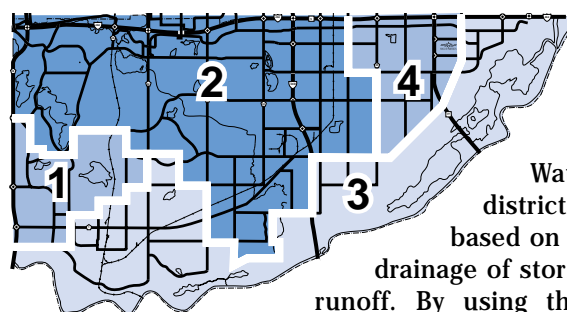
#### Protecting watersheds

We are all part of the solution to water quality problems. Our actions affect the water and environment around us. Start by keeping a healthy lawn. Plant and maintain grass and natural

vegetation to help soak up rainfall, reduce runoff and retain sediment. Use phosphorus-free fertilizers. Keep leaves and lawn clippings

out of the streets and gutters. Pick up pet waste. This all adds up to quality water that is safe to swim in, live by and enjoy. ◆

#### Watershed districts



Watershed districts are based on surface drainage of stormwater runoff. By using the best management practices on your lot,

you contribute to the overall water quality of your watershed. This is important because all water in these boundaries eventually flows to the Minnesota River.

If you are doing significant construction that requires a permit, want water quality information or are interested in volunteer opportunities, call the contact number in your district:

- 1 Riley-Purgatory Creek**  
Barr Engineering - 952-832-2600
- 2 Nine Mile Creek**  
Barr Engineering - 952-832-2600
- 3 Lower Minnesota**  
Administrator - 952-496-8842
- 4 Bloomington/Richfield**  
Bloomington Engineering - 952-563-4867

*This article is an authorized adapted reprint from "Watersheds, Lawn Care and Water Quality," produced by the Lake Harriet Watershed Awareness Project.*

### Reduce energy use

**A**dhere to this year's resolution and get rid of those unwanted pounds. That is, pounds of harmful emissions released into the atmosphere each year. Reducing energy consumption lowers emissions of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, that contribute to global warming.

Cut greenhouse gas emissions by more than 10,000 pounds a year !

#### Reduce, reuse, recycle

**850 pounds**

Save energy required to manufacture new containers. Buy products that have reusable, recyclable or reduced packaging. At home, recycle newspapers, magazines, junk mail, cardboard, glass and plastic bottles and metal cans.

#### Buy a fuel-efficient car

**5,600 pounds**

When buying a car, look for one that gets more than 30 miles per gallon. Keep your car tuned up and properly inflate tires to further save on fuel costs.

#### Consider alternative transportation

**1,590 pounds**

Take a bus, carpool or bicycle at least two days a week.

#### Keep your home energy efficient

**2,480 pounds**

Insulate, caulk windows and doors, tune up your furnace and air conditioner.

#### Harness energy from the sun

**720 pounds**

Install a solar thermal system in your home that will help provide hot water.

#### Plant trees

**50 pounds**

Trees reduce energy when planted for shade and they absorb carbon dioxide from the air. ◆

*Information taken from the Environmental Protection Agency.*

### Did you know?

◆ **Nearly 17 million trees are used for the 1 million tons of disposable paper plates and cups Americans throw away each year.**

◆ **Using a gas-powered lawn mower for 1 hour creates as much air pollution as driving a car 50 miles.**

◆ **In an average-sized home, the combined areas of small cracks, crevices and holes would equal the cold air let in by a medium-sized open window.**

*Information taken from the Saint Paul Neighboring Energy Consortium.*



What natural resource is used to make a plastic bottle?

**Answer: Petroleum**

## Bloomington Yesterday

### Plowing snow in the early 1900s

#### Major horsepower

This is how our streets were cleared in Bloomington's early years. Horses were hitched up to a plow to pull it through the snow. So many horses were used in this example that the photographer couldn't fit the plow into the picture.



Bloomington Historical Society

#### Catch our drift?

##### Snow emergency parking ban

When three or more inches of snow are on the ground, a snow emergency is automatically in effect. Plowing begins early to clear heavily-used streets by rush hour. No parking is allowed on any city street for the next 48 hours or until it has been plowed curb-to-curb.

For information, call the **Snow Emergency Hotline at 952-563-8768.**

## Our Future – Our Youth

### Board sets direction of BUY

The journey continues in a positive direction for Bloomington United for Youth (BUY) with a newly developed board. After three and a half years of significant work, the BUY Management Team is recruiting community leaders to further integrate asset-building into the fabric of our community. The 14-member board consists of leaders representing students, parents, businesses, civic groups, media, schools, faith communities, youth-serving organizations and the City of Bloomington.

In November, the Board completed a strategic planning session led by a consultant from the Minnesota Institute of Cultural Affairs. In addition to setting a future direction for BUY, the group developed a

vision and identified strengths and weaknesses. Proposed actions include:

- ◆ **Facilitate asset-building activities** such as valuing family time, leadership retreats, intergenerational dialogues, asset-building zones in our community, adopt-a-grand-parent/youth and cultural fairs.

- ◆ **Create community awareness** about asset-building through advertising, outreach and communication.

- ◆ **Expand BUY's function** to include fundraising, staffing, youth involvement, networking and partnerships.



The Board will also be addressing the substantial one-year accomplishments required to launch these new strategic directions.

The Bloomington United for Youth Board invites other community members to get involved with asset-building activities throughout the year. For more information, contact Dick Ramberg at 952-921-1945 or Pat Brookman at 952-886-8802. ◆

### Retreat identifies youth as leaders



**“It was a great experience. I really learned a lot about leadership and myself.”**

*Senior at Jefferson High School*

In November, students from Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools attended a youth leadership retreat at YMCA Camp Icaghowan in Amery, Wisconsin. The City's Human Services and Public Health Divisions, Galaxy Youth Center and Bloomington United for Youth sponsored the retreat.

#### A learning experience

The event brought 26 students, grades 9 – 12, together

to work toward a common vision of youth leadership by developing a greater self-awareness and world view, demonstrating citizenship skills, showing how youth can make a difference and identifying youth involvement opportunities.

#### Taking on leadership roles

In an agreement to serve as moral and ethical leaders in our community, the youth included six essential characteristics: **courage, dedication, honesty, passion, patience and respect.** The youth will meet in February and April for additional leadership training and will participate in service learning projects within our community.

For more information or to get involved, call the Galaxy Youth Center at 952-885-8548. ◆

## Obesity in children is a growing issue

**Overweight youth are at risk of developing serious health conditions.**



The percentage of overweight youth, ages 6 – 17, has tripled since the 1960s. Insufficient physical activity and unhealthy diets are two of the main contributors to youth obesity.

#### Health risks

Overweight youth have a greater risk of developing a variety of serious, often life-threatening, conditions such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, arthritis and cancer. Type 2 diabetes, which usually develops in adults over age 40 and is directly related to obesity, has skyrocketed among children.

#### Understanding barriers

Some of the barriers to good nutrition and physical activity for youth include:

- ◆ *Excessive television viewing.*
- ◆ *Popularity of take-out food* which has bigger portions and more calories than meals prepared at home.
- ◆ *Lack of after-school programs* for adolescents.
- ◆ *Fear of crime and lack of sidewalks and bike paths* which has reduced the number of children who walk to school or other activities.
- ◆ *Availability of high fat, high sugar foods* from vending machines and stores and their use as a reward.
- ◆ *Highly competitive sports* that start at a young age and exclude all but the best athletes.

#### Working together for healthy youth

It will take a concerted effort from many sectors of the community to change the eating habits and activity levels in children. A branch of the Tri-City Partners for Healthy Youth and Communities is working on environmental policies that will positively affect the health of our youth. For more information, contact Joan Bulfer, Bloomington Health Division, at 952-563-8992 or email [jbulfer@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jbulfer@ci.bloomington.mn.us). ◆

Don't know where to turn?

# Famili**link** gives you direction

The Famili**link** Resource Center is your way to get connected to valuable community resources, services or programs relating to: **basic needs, family services, youth programs, senior support and immigrant services.**

Famili**link** is a collaborative effort focused on improving the way human services needs are met. The network of partners includes schools, businesses, faith organizations, civic groups, City and human services providers.

The Famili**link** Resource Center is located at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Staff are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and one night a week until 7 p.m. For information, call 952-884-0444 V/TTY. ♦

## On-line additions

Visit the City's Web site lately? Here's a listing of new information you will find at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us).



- ◆ **City's cable television** - franchise agreement with Time Warner, answers to frequently asked questions and on-line complaint form.
- ◆ **Standard construction details** for public improvement projects and private development.
- ◆ **Norman Pointe Development Project** final Environmental Impact Statement. Located at Green Valley and Norman Center Drives, the project replaces two buildings with two 9-story office buildings, a 14-story office building and a hotel.

- ◆ **Smoking cessation and education** programs in southern Hennepin County.
- ◆ **Off-leash recreation area for dogs** - site rules and tips for visitors. The 25-acre site is located on 111th St. between Nesbitt and Hampshire Ave.
- ◆ **Home Improvement Resource Guide** - tips on hiring contractors, getting bids, common remodeling projects and sample diagrams.
- ◆ **New City facilities** updates including **Water Treatment Plant expansion** details.
- ◆ **Annual Report of the Utilities Division.**

To easily locate a specific topic, use the search feature entitled, "I'm looking for" on our home page. Type in the key words, above in bold, and click "search". ♦

## Free tax assistance

Free income tax advice and assistance is available for older adults, low and moderate-income families and for persons with disabilities at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Tax preparation is available by:

- ◆ **Walk-in** - First-come, first-served basis from 6 - 9 p.m., Thursday evenings, February 15, March 15 and April 12.
- ◆ **Appointment** - Mondays and Wednesdays, February 5 - April 16, from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### What to bring

- ◆ 2000 tax form booklets.
- ◆ A copy of your 1999 federal and state income tax returns.
- ◆ All documents concerning your 2000 income: adjustments, deductions, credits, payments.
- ◆ If filing for a property tax refund, a copy of your 1999 property tax refund claim and 2001 property tax statement or certificate of rent paid.

Trained AARP volunteers and accountants provide tax assistance, cosponsored by Bloomington Human Services and Famili**link**. To make an appointment, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.♦

## Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

The Senior Program at Creekside dishes up its monthly continental breakfast series:

- February 28** - *Taste and See: Nutrition Practices for Seniors* - The latest nutrition recommendations for older adults.
- March 28** - *Memory Magic* - How to improve your memory.
- April 25** - *Vintage Humor* - Author Donna Lagoria Montgomery, described as the Twin Cities' Erma Bombeck, will speak.

Cost is \$3, payable at the door. To register, call the Senior Program at 952-563-4957 V/TTY. For transportation, call 952-563-4948. ♦

## Bush Lake shoreline restoration

With no natural outlet, the water level at Bush Lake has risen over time. In order to maintain a normal water level, a pipe and lift station were installed to pump excess water to nearby Anderson Lake.

Construction and repair to water quality basins that were damaged by the extended high water levels have been completed. The project's second phase includes removing 100 dead trees this winter and restoring the exposed shoreline. The removal of trees that pose a safety risk is allowed by the Department of Natural Resources.

### Native plants will emerge

Many seeds of native lakeshore plants already exist in the exposed mudflats and will begin to grow this spring. First, weedy plants like smartweed and tickseed will emerge to provide groundcover. Then, sturdy perennial wildflowers, grasses and ferns will appear. By summer, dense vegetation will cover the newly exposed shoreline.



### Ridding shoreline of invasive plants

Also buried in the mudflats are invasive weeds such as purple loosestrife and reed canary grass. These aggressive non-native plants can quickly replace the native vegetation that provides an excellent habitat for wildlife. To prevent the growth of these plants, the shoreline will be hand-weeded and sprayed with herbicide from April through October over a four-year time period. The efforts from homeowners and the City will continue to protect the shores from invasive species encroachment.

For more information, call the Engineering Division at 952-563-4867. ♦

## Clean Water Festival on Saturday, April 21, 2001

Learn more about water quality with games, entertainment and activities for the whole family! Attend the Clean Water Festival on Saturday, April 21, 2001, at Olson Middle School, 4551 West 102nd Street, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For information, call Christina Peterson at 952-563-4870. ♦



## Citywide Garage Sale to be held this spring

### 2001 Citywide Garage Sale

<b>West of 35W</b>	Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 3, 4, 5
<b>East of 35W</b>	Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 10, 11, 12

### 2001 Citywide Curbside Cleanup

Regular Trash Collection is	In the Area from	Cleanup Day is Saturday,
Friday	West of Normandale	April 21
Thursday	France to Normandale	April 28
Wednesday	Penn to France	May 5
Tuesday	Portland to Penn	May 19
Monday	East of Portland	June 9

## Be constructive with a home improvement loan

The Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is now accepting applications for its Home Improvement Deferred Loan Program.

Loans of up to \$25,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

Since 1975, the HRA has loaned more than \$5 million to homeowners to maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in the city and to aid in renewing our community.

### Eligible repairs

- ◆ Replacement of roofs, electrical and plumbing systems.
- ◆ New furnaces, gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
- ◆ Exterior painting.
- ◆ Foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

### Ineligible repairs

- ◆ Decorating.
- ◆ Additions.
- ◆ Finishing of basements.
- ◆ Remodeling.

### Application guidelines

To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan. Income guidelines apply. See *graph*.

Persons in household	Maximum gross income
1	\$35,150
2	\$40,150
3	\$45,200
4	\$50,200
5	\$54,200
6	\$58,250
7	\$62,250
8 or more	\$66,250

### Deadline

Loan applications will be accepted at the HRA office in City Hall, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, until March 9. For more information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937. ♦